

Dear Chairman and Commissioners of the FCC,

I am writing to urge you to support regulations that promote diverse ownership in all channels of media. You are a trustee of the airwaves and citizens like myself are starting to realize that an accounting of the management of this public property is long overdue.

I am a 27 year old female "consumer" of radio in New Orleans, LA. I have only 2 choices during my morning commute that do not turn my stomach: NPR and WWOZ, a locally owned and operated radio station. However, I am not writing to you on this Saturday afternoon because I'm indignant that most stations don't play more Lucinda Williams and less Backstreet Boys.

I am writing to you because I am a CITIZEN, not just a consumer, of my community and of the United States and I am concerned that members of Congress and the FCC are not working hard enough to protect one of our most vital tools of our democracy.

The deregulation and the subsequent ownership consolidation of radio stations is depriving local citizens of the forum to both share information and discuss issues that are important to our community and my nation.

About a year ago, I began to wonder why local djs never broke into programming to announce a major accident on I-10 or a fire on State Street that was rerouting traffic. Also, I never seem to hear any local voices of the community discussing upcoming elections. Instead, 30 second advertisements purport to explicate a candidate's ideas on a complicated issue like oh, say, social security reform, with a 9 second sound bite. This is unacceptable. Citizens like myself are now becoming aware of the mismanagement of public airwaves. We are acting and will act aggressively in the future to ensure that our interests are served by Congress and the FCC.

Now the FCC is planning on removing regulations that prohibit a single corporation from owning radio, tv, and newspaper outlets in one city. While the motivations for these deregulations from different camps may be masked in the name of efficient business, the result of these policies is the undermining of democratic processes in our community and our nation.

Again, I urge you to speak up and promote the use of public airwaves for public good. At least give local and independent radio stations the opportunity to serve the community and perhaps we can revive public discourse and connectedness on issues that citizens ARE very concerned about.

The FCC review of media ownership rules is most likely to be one of the most important in our time. Please read the excerpt from Fortune Magazine below with this in mind.

Lowry Mays: 'We're In The Business Of Selling Our Customers Product'

"If anyone said we were in the radio business, it wouldn't be

someone from our company. We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well-researched music." That's a quote from the Clear Channel Chairman/CEO, who is interviewed in the latest Fortune magazine. The article details how Mays entered radio and grew his company, as well as his recent faceoff with senators at a Capitol Hill hearing on consolidation. "People who say we're the evil empire just aren't educated enough about who we are," CC CFO Randall Mays tells the publications, and COO Mark Mays agrees: "They just need to be enlightened." As for Clear Channel's practice of voicetracking, Radio CEO John Hogan is quoted as saying he prefers to call it "talent exploration." "At the risk of sounding flippant, it's entertainment," he says. "I understand why people object, because it's scary for those who can't change.

We don't just want entertainment or distraction from our public airwaves, we want public discourse! Thank you for your time.

Jane Hays